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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 19, 1995)

The Senate met at 8:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised and His greatness is unsearchable. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty—Psalm 145: 3, 5.

Almighty God, help us to think magnificently about You: Your glory and grace, Your greatness and goodness, Your peace and power. We acknowledge that our prayer is like dipping water from the ocean with a teaspoon. Whatever we receive of Your infinite wisdom and guidance, it is infinitesimal in comparison to Your limitless resources. So we come humbly and gratefully to receive, to draw from Your divine intelligence what we need for today's deliberations and decisions. We thank You for the women and men of this Senate and their staffs who support their work. Help them humbly to ask for Your perspective on perplexities and then receive Your direction. Give them new vision, innovative solutions, and fresh enthusiasm. We commit this day to love and serve You with our minds. Today, when votes are counted on crucial decisions, help them neither to relish victory nor nurse the discouragement of defeat, but do everything to maintain the bond of unity in the midst of differences and then move forward. This we pray in Your holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from the State of South Carolina, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise this morning to begin the freshman focus. The freshman class, all 11 of us of the 104th Congress, have taken about the role of coming to the floor on a regular basis to focus the Senate on issues of importance really to the next generation of Americans. We believe that as freshmen we have a special role to play in looking toward the future and seeing how we can focus the attention of the Senate on solving the long-term problems that face this country.

Today, under the able leadership of Senator THOMAS from Wyoming, who has been a real champion in organizing this effort and bringing the freshman class in the Chamber on a very regular basis, we are going to talk about the Clinton "budget." When I say Clinton "budget," I use the term "budget" in quotes because we do not really have what I think anyone would seriously consider a detailed budget of how the President is going to solve the deficit problem that faces this country. In fact, we have 6 pages—photocopied on both sides, that is 12 pages total—of budget specifics as to how he is going to reduce the budget deficit to zero over the next 10 years.

Now, it is interesting; if you look at what is going to be required to balance the budget over the next 10 years, it requires about \$1.6 trillion in spending cuts. That is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Now, you say: How do they figure that out? How does the Congressional Budget Office come up with the assumption that we need to cut spending an aggregate amount of \$1.6 trillion? They make certain basic assumptions, economic assumptions.

The economic assumptions that the Congressional Budget Office makes is a percentage growth in the economy. They say, well, we estimate over the next 10 years that the economy will grow on average a certain percentage per year. The estimates, frankly, if you look at them, are pretty flat. I think about 2.3 percent growth per year over the next 7 years because they were doing a 7-year budget.

Now the President has come up with 10. They extended it up to 10 years. It does not take into account recessions. And most economists will tell you, over the next 10 years we are scheduled to have at least one recession, probably two recessions. Now, they may not be deep recessions, but they will talk about much lower rates of growth and maybe even some negative growth during that period of time.

Now, what happens when we have recessions? Well, when we have recessions, tax revenues go down, expenditures to the Federal Government go up because unemployment claims go up, welfare payments go up, other kinds of Government supports, safety net programs, are much more in use.

The Congressional Budget Office, I think, was sort of averaging out the high and low periods of growth above 2 or 3 percent and periods of growth below and saying, on average, it is roughly 2.3 percent or maybe a little higher, 2.4 percent in the future.

They also make an assumption on interest rates. Why are interest rates important? Well, when you have nearly \$5 trillion of debt that you have to finance, interest rates are important. The higher the interest rates, the higher the interest costs, the higher the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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